

PLAIN TALKS

MAY, 1975



50
YEARS
Of People
Serving People

PLAIN TALKS

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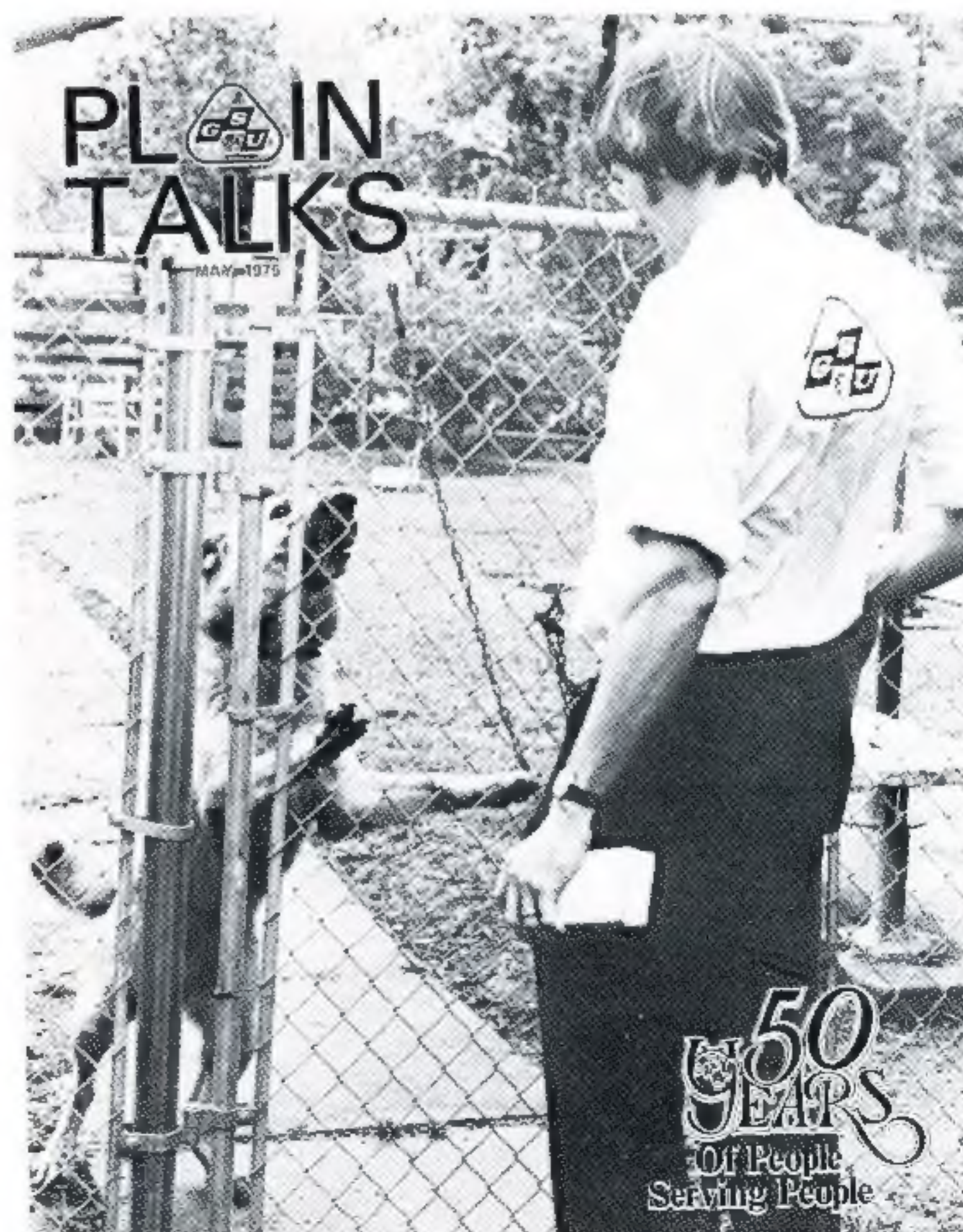
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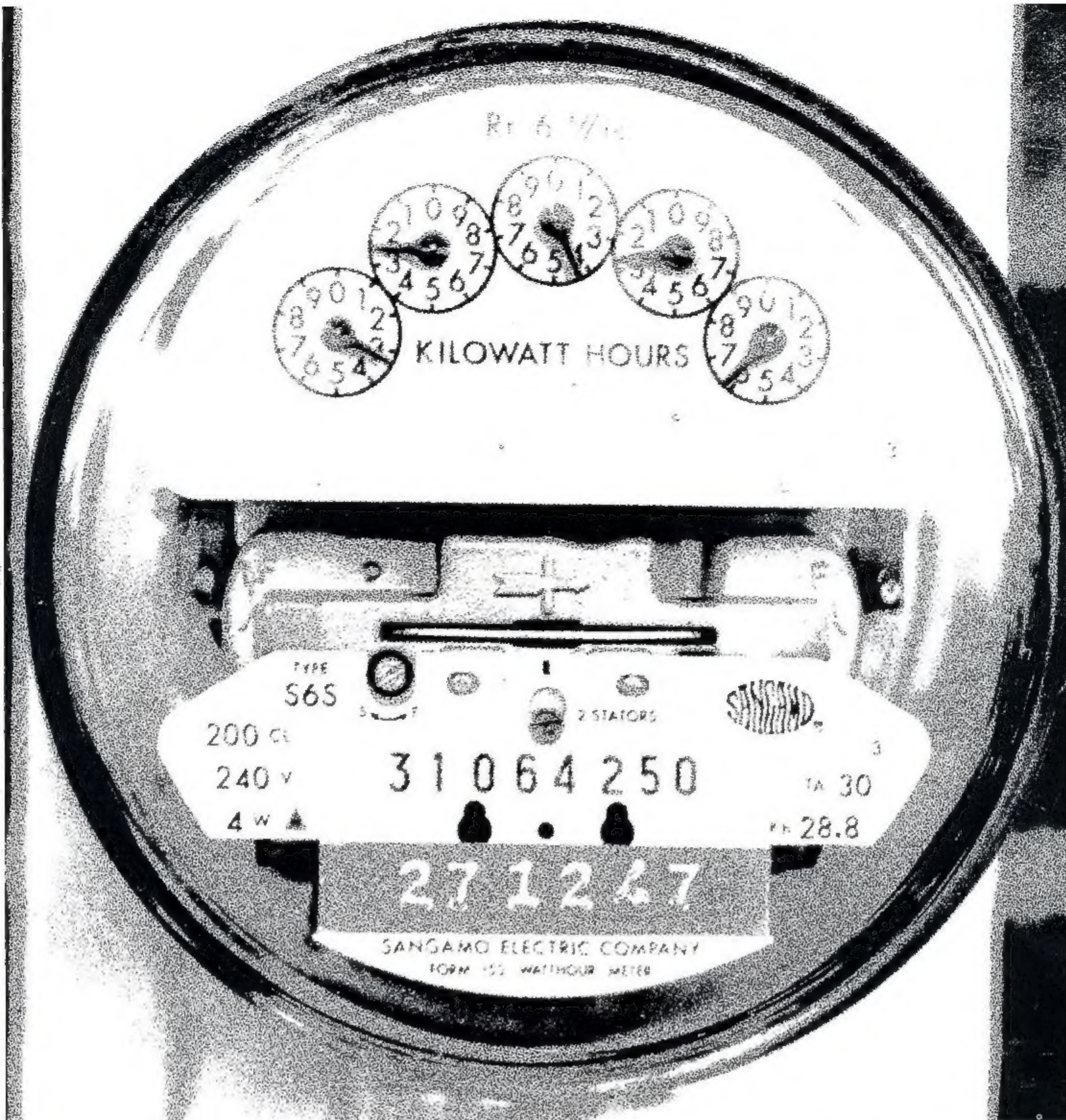
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ABOUT THE COVER

Although the Company has changed considerably in its 50 years, meter reading remains dominated by the same fact of life: Dogs! True enough, most electric meters are outside and thank God for fences and leash laws, but Port Arthur Meter Reader John Causey (pictured) tells dog stories nearly identical to those of retired meter reader and collector Edward B. Picou of Baton Rouge. Their and other's anecdotes, sprinkled with a few facts on the changes in meter reading over the last half century, begin on Page 2.





METER READERS

**The disc keeps on turning...
...and the dogs keep on biting.**

Anglers have stories about the fish that got away. Meter readers spin yarns about the vicious dog that DIDN'T get away, rather sinking its teeth into a convenient portion of the reader's anatomy.

Man's best friends are certainly not good buddies of meter readers, who apparently fall in the same despised lot as postmen and newspaper carriers as far as canines are concerned.

"Dogs were a thorn in my side," said Edward B. Picou, retired Baton Rouge collector who read meters for 24 of his 40 years with the Company. "I must have been bitten about 500 times. The worst dog bite was just a year before I retired.

"I reached through a fence to unlock a gate, and before I could get my arm back, this dog bit the back of my right hand and tore a triangular flap of skin

off," Picou said. "It bled like I'd been stuck by a bull," he said. The wound required 10 stitches to close and several tendons were damaged.

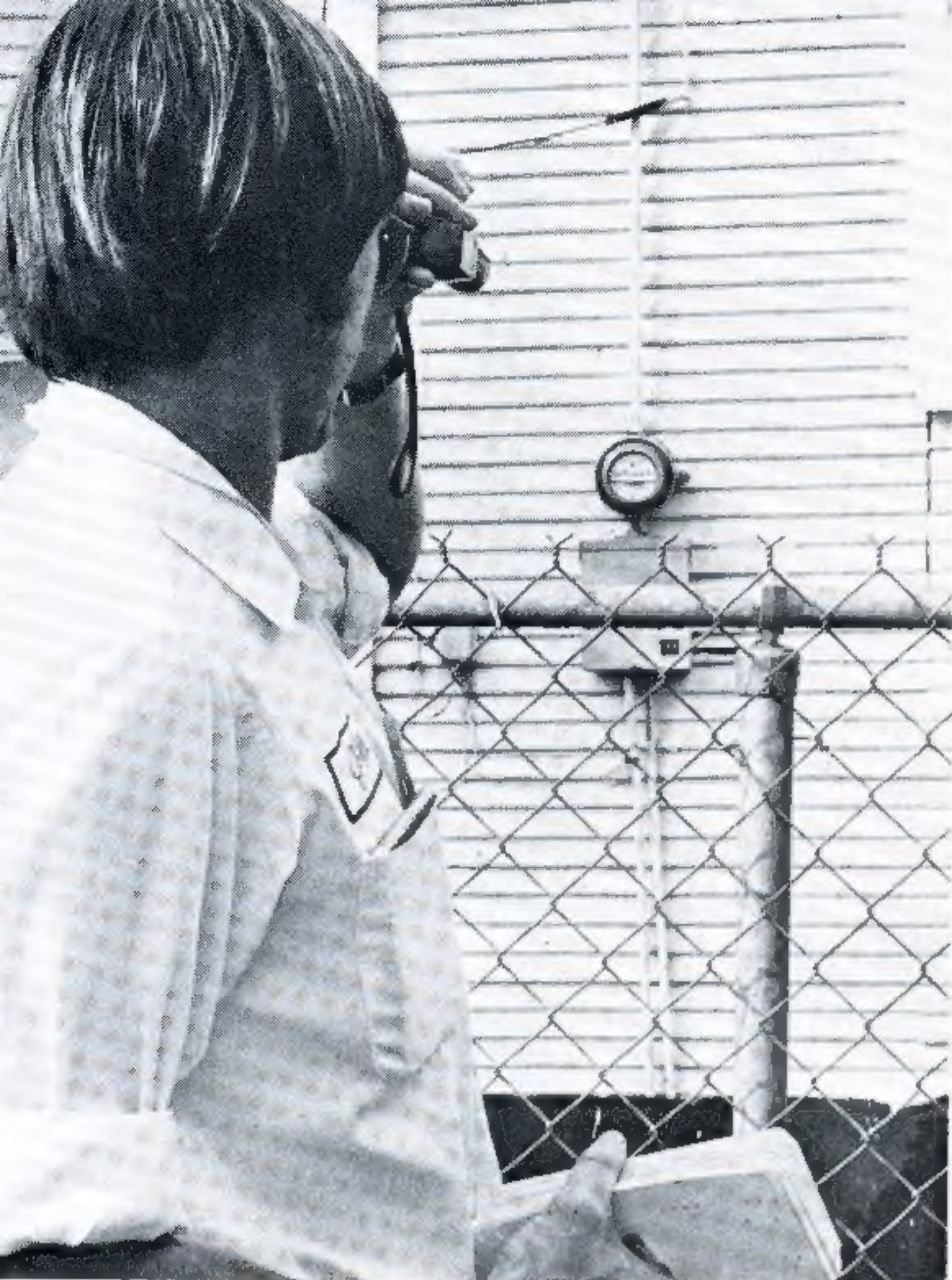
"More frightening, however, was when four white spitzes swarmed around me like bees," Picou said. "They liked to have torn my clothes off. One of my pants legs was ripped.

"I never got to read that house's meter. I had gotten only halfway through the back yard. I went back later and found someone at home."

John Causey in Port Arthur got bit "almost every week," after he began nine months ago, according to Tracy Webb, division accounting supervisor.

Typical was the sneak attack one dog launched from beneath a house built up off the ground.

"A bush obscured the meter, so I couldn't use my



Meters can be placed in the most unusual places. Across a fence (left) or in an enclosed porch, for example.

little telescope and had to get right next to the house to read the meter," Causey said. "The dog came from underneath the house and wrapped himself around my leg. He tore my pants but luckily didn't break the skin."

A German Shepherd once pulled a surprise attack that shocked Causey into falling down.

"The dog came around the end of a house and surprised me. I slipped trying to get away, and just before I fell down I got to my dog spray and fired at him."

The dog spray is a pepper solution used by mailmen and other delivery personnel. It is not harmful to the animal other than being a severe irritation, especially to the eyes, thus retarding an attack.

Sometimes a surprise attack can come even when the reader is looking out for mean dogs.

"This house had a 'Beware of Dog' sign, and I was watching two dogs in the yard when a man came running out of the house yelling, 'Watch out for the dog.' Another dog then ran from somewhere and bit me on the leg.

"The meanest dog I've ever seen had a car tire wrapped around him for restraint," he said.

After several months on the job, however, the meter reader tends to get philosophical about dogs and their behavior.

"They are a lot like people," Causey said. "They want attention. They bark at you and want you to talk to them. A lot of times they're just as jumpy as you are. I try and see if I can pet them before I enter a yard with dogs. If I can't pet the dog I don't go into the yard."

The leading dog psychologist in the Port Arthur Division is Joe Kimble, a meter reader with seven

years' tenure.

"He doesn't even carry dog spray," Causey related in awe. "He knows how to handle dogs."

Kimble's admired calm in the face of a snarling mouth of canine teeth is the result of his years of study and a natural friendliness toward dogs.

"I had trouble about the first year I was meter reading," he said. "It took me that long before I had walked every route a few times and found out which dogs were really bad and which dogs were bluffing."

The Kimble Test for an unleashed, charging dog is to advance toward the dog and talk to him in an authoritative voice.

"Usually when they see I'm not afraid of him, they'll take off in the other direction.

"The only times I've been bitten have been when the dog snuck up from behind me and I didn't know he was there.

"Of course, there are a few dogs you can't mess with," he said. "So I don't bother them and don't read the meter if the customer isn't there."

Some dogs and possibly the readers themselves, however, harbor irreconcilable differences. Possibly the most confusing situation is when a customer assures the reader the pet is harmless, yet the dog still attacks the visitor.

The classic story is told by Picou as it occurred to the late Charlie Benton.

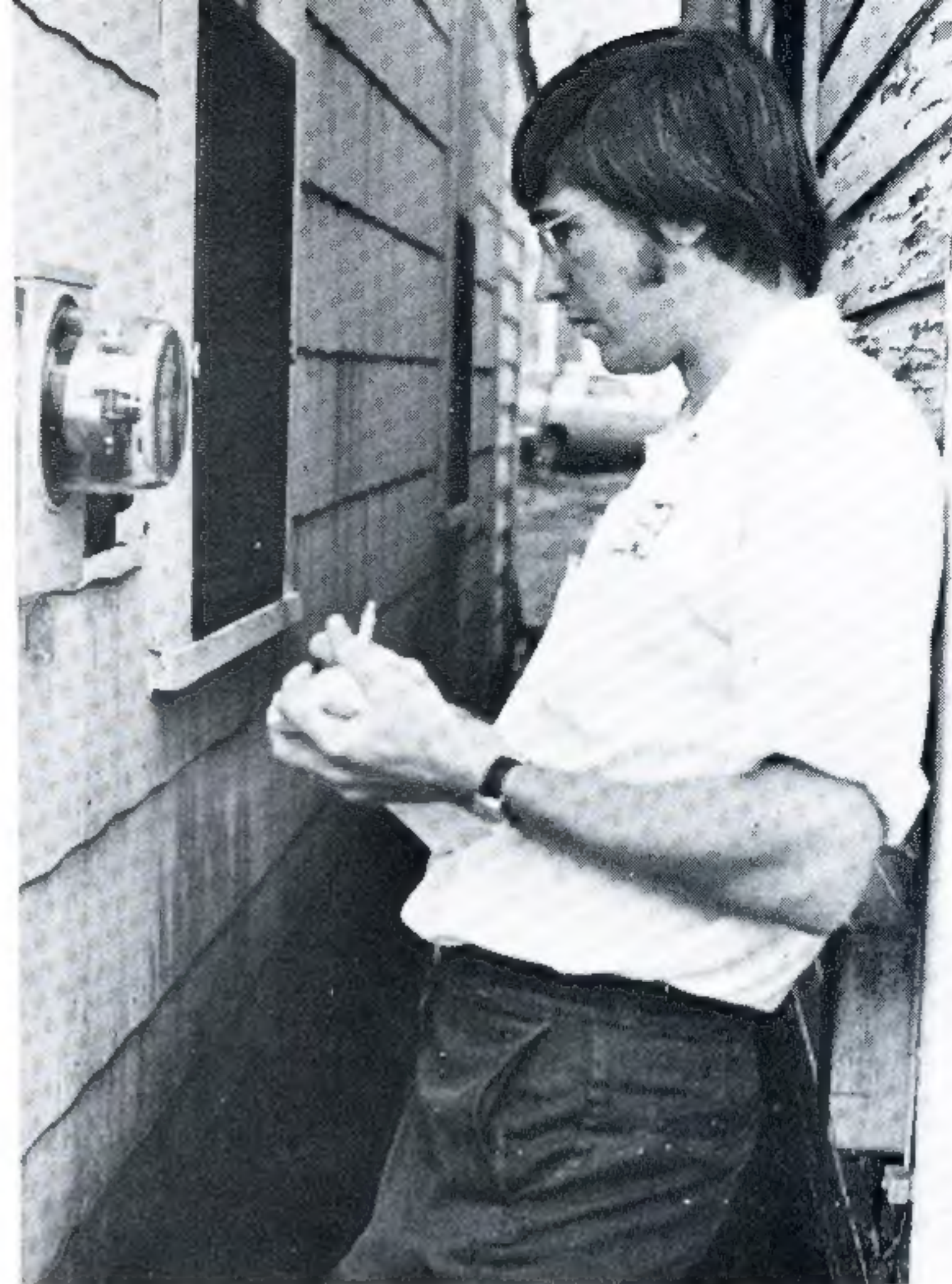
"This lady told Charlie, 'Come on, he won't bite. He doesn't have any teeth.'"

"Benton pulled up his pants leg, showing the lady blood running down his leg from a wound inflicted by her 'toothless' dog.

"'He may not bite, Ma'am,' Charlie said. 'But he sure gummed the hell out of me.'"



Viewing the meter may be no easy chore when a bush (above) obscures the dials or the space between houses is narrow.



Canines aside, conditions meter readers work under have improved considerably over the last 50 years.

"When I started, things couldn't have been worse," Picou said. "Meters were inside the houses, up in attics, under houses or in basements. You had to crawl a lot just to get to the meters.

"Some streets were so muddy they were hardly fit for a mule," he continued. "Owners of the lots south of LSU would lend me a horse to read their meters out in the fields. In those days there was no standard house numbering system out of the city limits. A home numbered 300 would be next door to another numbered 1150."

"Reading 200 meters per day was pretty good — and even then you had a lot of skips," Picou said. "Now you can average about 500 meters per day because you don't have to wait for someone to come to the door, and the meters in apartments are grouped together."

During the depression Picou averaged more than 600 meters per day one month, when he worked 12 hours for six days a week while a fellow employee was recuperating from an operation. "I had to hold up both ends," he said. "When I first went to work with the Baton Rouge Electric Co. you just worked until you got through."

Causey grabs a stack of computer cards each morning before beginning his route. Each card lists house and meter numbers in the order the route is walked. Causey simply marks the meter reading on the card, which is read like an examination answer sheet by the computer, and the customer's bill is prepared.

Rain and humidity occasionally plague the readers, however, because the cards can swell in the dampness, causing them to jam the card reading machine.

Some meters remain inside homes, but the majority are outside, with an easy direct view at either close range or through a small telescope.

"Locating the meter is the roughest part of the job," Causey said. "I just watch for the wire coming to the house from the pole. The meter is usually near where the wire enters the house."

Readers are also alert for meters that have been tampered with. Metal seals are checked periodically for integrity, and suspicious meters or unusually low readings are reported.

"It's not a highly skilled job," Causey said. "But you have a lot on your mind. Like being sure the meter number matches that on the card, insuring the meter is sealed, noting meters that are cut off, finding the meter, and taking a good reading.

"And at the same time I'm looking out for dogs."

"Meter reading is one of the most important jobs in the Company," according to Webb. "It's where it all begins. They have more contact with customers than 90 per cent of our other employees.

"If we don't get a good reading, we don't get a good billing; and it causes unmitigated hell for us," Webb said. "We would spend hours on the phone trying to correct mistakes in billing."

Mistakes don't happen very often, according to Picou, who checks his meter's reading with his bill each month. "I usually read it before or right after the meter reader reads it," Picou said. "And they're usually right."

To paraphrase the inscription on the Main Post Office in New York City: Neither snow nor rain, nor heat nor gloom of night, *nor angry dogs*, stays these meter readers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS — The Gulf States side of the small meeting room in the Louisiana State Capitol listens to the limited appearance of lawyer Robert Fisher (at microphone) of New Orleans and a St. Francisville native who opposed River Bend site for a nuclear power plant. Sitting at

the near table (counterclockwise from the right) are Gulf Staters Jim Meitzen, Jim Booker and Jim Derr; lawyers Troy B. Conner, Jr. of Washington D. C. and Stanley Plettman of Beaumont; Jim Wright of Gulf States and (nearer the camera) Robert Byrnes of Stone & Webster.

Environmental Hearings to Continue

Work at the River Bend nuclear power station site near St. Francisville, La., was delayed once again as the Environmental Hearing of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board adjourned March 27 with two questions still to be addressed by the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

What is presumed to be a final convention of the hearings will be held in St. Francisville sometime in May. After their completion, a limited work authorization for site clearing, excavation and road building is expected in July or August.

The ASLB hearings are part of the licensing process leading to a construction permit. Safety hearings, are scheduled to begin late in June.

Three days of environmental hearing were held in Baton Rouge, and one day the board convened in St. Francisville.

Scores of citizens, both for and against the construction of the River Bend reactors, testified during the four days of hearings.

"The conclusion of the (NRC) staff . . . is that the proposed site is a suitable site for nuclear reactors of the general size and type proposed," said Lawrence Brenner, office of the general counsel, NRC.

The Company applied on Sept. 18, 1973 for permission to build two 940 megawatt nuclear power reactors near St. Francisville. The target date for commercial operation is now set at September, 1981, and September, 1983, for units one and two, respectively.

"Traditionally, Louisiana has met a large part of the nation's energy requirement," Lt. Gov. James E. Fitzmorris told the board. "This state and the waters lying offshore in bays and in the Gulf of Mexico have furnished the first or second fraction of the national requirements for oil and gas. . . . As chairman of the state's Energy Commission, I have come to one conclusion: We cannot afford to continue to put all of our energy dependence on one source. We cannot switch from oil and gas to nuclear and geothermal and to solar. We must begin to carefully consider our needs and the resources available to meet those needs

and to see to it that each source of energy furnishes that part of our requirements which it is best to capably and efficiently handle.

"I favor the application currently pending before this body for those reasons."

The Company faced one scheduled intervenor, Will Pozzi, and also the state Attorney General's office, a spokesman for which said "citizens of the state have made representations to the Attorney General expressing concern about the location of the nuclear plant. . . . Our purpose here is to do what we can to seek to determine whether all issues about which our citizens have expressed concern have been treated adequately in this process."

Pozzi's lawyer derided the hearing process itself, terming it a forum not to educate the people of the state, "but to let Gulf States and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission go ahead and build another power plant."

The remaining issues at the hearings' adjournment were the possible contamination of nearby sweet potatoes by radiation and what dose would be expected from eating an irradiated sweet potato should an unexpected release of radiation occur.

"Those doses are so small you couldn't find them," contended James Booker, licensing engineer.

The NRC staff has also been granted permission to enter testimony concerning the future availability of nuclear fuel.

More than 40 persons from Gulf States, Stone & Webster, General Electric and various consulting firms attended the hearings on Gulf States' behalf. The project team for the Blue Hills power station also observed the proceedings to familiarize themselves with the regulatory and public hearing processes.

The ASLB consisted of Chairman Thomas Reilly, a lawyer; Fred Shon, a nuclear scientist and permanent member of the board; and Dr. Frank Hooper, chairman of the Resource Ecology Program of the School of Natural Resources in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.



Sprinklers Installed

A \$212,000 water sprinkler fire protection system has been installed in the Main Office. The 22-story building is the first high rise in Texas to be fully protected by sprinklers, according to the Texas State Board of Insurance.

Approximately 2,100 sprinkler heads (as pictured above) and about 22,500 feet of steel piping were placed throughout the building in accordance with the rules and regulations of the National Fire Protection Association.

Construction of the system, which had continued for several months, was completed April 1, according to Carroll Henry, building design section head.

The sprinkler system is part of a \$386,000 fire protection plan for the building, which was originally built as a hotel. Included in the system is a chemical fire extinguishing system in areas containing valuable electronic equipment. Still to be constructed is a system of smoke detectors, automatic elevator controls and a central fire security console, the extent of which has not yet been determined.

The water sprinklers are placed in halls, closets, offices and auditoriums to be able to deliver fire-quenching water to any nook and cranny in the building. Each sprinkler head reacts independently when the temperature reaches 165°F (74°C). The system is connected to the city water supply and aided by a booster fire pump.

An outdoor fire alarm bell has also been installed.

"There has never been a recorded instance of death caused by fire in a fully-sprinklered building such as yours," said Bill R. Smith, contracting engineer for Grinnell Fire Protection Systems Co., Inc., manufacturers of the Gulf States system.

Stock, Bond Sale Nets \$70 Million

Gulf States raised more than \$70 million April 29 in the sale of 3 million additional shares of common stock and \$40 million of first mortgage bonds.

The stock was sold by negotiation in New York City through underwriters at a cost to the Company of \$10.38 per share, to be resold to the public at \$11 per share, the market price at the close of business April 28. The bonds, due in the year 2005, were also sold by negotiation in New York City at a price to the Company of 99.125 per cent. They were re-offered to the public at 100 per cent to yield 10.15 per cent interest annually. Delivery of all securities was set for May 7 in New York City.

Total proceeds from the sale, after underwriting fees were subtracted, were \$70,790,000.

Book value for Gulf States common stock was nearly \$14 per share before the sale, so the value of existing shares is somewhat diminished by the new, lower-priced shares. The 10.15 per cent interest rate on the bonds was the highest in the Company's history.

"Considering the condition of the

economy and the peculiarities of the money market, we came out well," said Bob Jackson, secretary-treasurer. "We were able to sell the type of securities that we wanted under the conditions we wanted."

The sales were the first steps in financing the Company's revised \$182.8 million 1975 construction program. Proceeds from the sales will be used to pay off a portion of outstanding short-term bank loans and commercial paper which have been used for interim financing.

The sales were originally scheduled for April 3, with delivery on April 10. The agreed upon stock price was \$12 per share, and the bond interest rate was to have been 10 per cent. But the offerings were withdrawn on April 8 pending the review of an April 1 order by the Texas Railroad Commission recommending the phaseout of natural gas for use as a boiler fuel. The Company burns natural gas in the boilers of each of its three Texas power plants.

The delay cost the Company about \$4.8 million, however, due to the lower stock price and higher bond interest rate to be paid over their 30-yearlife.



NUCLEAR SHELF SPACE — Tom Crowe (right) presents a check in the amount of \$200 to Sam Collins, president of the library board in Newton. The check is to be used for book shelves to hold the Blue Hills Preliminary Safety Analysis Report and Environmental Report, and other documents as required to be placed in a local depository by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as part of the licensing process. (from Pat McMeel)



Marty Luginbuhl of Beaumont



Joyce Blanchard of Lake Charles

15th Annual Company Tourney

Luginbuhl, Blanchard Top Bowling Winners

by Pat McMeel
Contributing Editor

Marty Luginbuhl of Beaumont and Joyce Blanchard each won four trophies to highlight the 15th annual Company bowling tournament held April 12 at Village Lanes in Beaumont.

The pair bested more than 100 competitors from throughout the system. It was the second largest turnout in the tournament's history, surpassed only by the more than 130 that entered the 1973 tourney in Port Arthur.

Luginbuhl, a former Beaumont T&D employe, took the top honors for the men by averaging a blistering 222 for his nine-game total. His total pinfall count of 2006 was accomplished without benefit of handicap since he entered the tournament with a 200-plus average. Luginbuhl's efforts earned him first place in All-Events, first place in singles with 713, high series with 713, and was also a member of the winning team.

The All-Events title was determined by summing the competitors' three-game totals in the singles, doubles and team events.

Mrs. Blanchard and Kay Bounds of Beaumont shared the All-Events crown for the women with an 1863 total, a 207 average with handicap. Mrs. Blanchard edged out Ms. Bounds for the singles title 659-651.

Capturing the team event was "The Nobodys" with a score of 2500, an average of 208 per man over a three-game set.

"The Nobodys" nearest competitor was 66 pins behind at 2434, rolled by the "Lucky Four". Members of the winning team were Luginbuhl, Joe Simpson, George Hickman and Pat McMeel.

Other winners were Kenneth and Alfred Duhon of Lake Charles, who captured the doubles titles with a 1305, some 40 pins ahead of Luginbuhl and Simpson with 1265. Mrs. Blanchard won high series with a 675, and also was high game winner with 247. Emery Fruge was the high game winner with the men with a 268. The "Spence Battery" team from Port Arthur got special recognition for finishing dead last in the team event... but they had fun.

The tournament was coordinated and directed by Ricks Bryant and Muriel Hayes of Beaumont. "We certainly couldn't have done it without a lot of very special help from a lot of other people," said Ms. Hayes. Dewey Raborn of Baton Rouge has been chosen as the director of next year's tourney to be held in Baton Rouge at a date tentatively set for April 17. Raborn promised plenty of activity and Louisiana hospitality. He has already arranged for special rates at the Holiday Inn nearest the bowling alley and has a few other surprises up his sleeve.

RESULTS

Singles (men)

1. Marty Luginbuhl, Bmt.713
2. Fred Roffman, Bmt.702
3. Earl Broussard, P.A.649

Singles (women)

1. Joyce Blanchard, L.C.659
2. Kay Bounds, Bmt.651
3. Anita Comeaux, B.R.643

Doubles

1. Kenneth & Alfred Duhon, L.C.1305
2. Joe Simpson & Marty Luginbuhl, Bmt.1265
3. "Country" & Joyce Blanchard, L.C.1259

Team

1. Nobodys2500
(Simpson, Luginbuhl, Hickman, McMeel), Bmt.
2. Lucky Four2434
(Stanley, Jr., Broussard, Hebert, Bean), P.A.
3. The Eggs2333
(Cook, K. Duhon, A. Duhon, J. Duhon), L.C.

All-events (men)

- Marty Luginbuhl, Bmt.2006

All-events (women)

- Joyce Blanchard, L.C.1863
- Kay Bounds, Bmt.1863

High series (men)

- Marty Luginbuhl, Bmt.713

High series (women)

- Joyce Blanchard, L. C.675

High game (men)

- Emery Fruge, L. C.268

High game (women)

- Joyce Blanchard, L. C.247

Company Golf Tourney At Terrell Park May 26

Plans have been finalized for the annual company-wide Memorial Day Golf Tournament, to be held May 26 at Terrell Park in Beaumont.

Luther Risher, a director of the event, said entry blanks are in the mail and that the number of participants would not be restricted.

"We want to allow everyone to play," Risher said. The tournament is open to all Company employees, male or female. "This is the one tourney in which only employees can play. No guests are invited," Risher added.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Risher in Beaumont at extension 423.

PUR Guide Graduates

Four Gulf Staters have recently been graduated from the Public Utilities Reports (PUR) Guide correspondence course.

G. W. Hiter, supervisor of industrial and commercial sales in Baton Rouge; Don E. Hamilton, project engineer in Beaumont; J. M. Geen, standards material coordinator in Beaumont; and R. M. Sigsbee, residential sales representative in Conroe, passed the final exam.

The course is an eight-part, 41-lesson course designed to instruct the role of public utilities in the American economic system. Gulf States refunds half of an employee's tuition upon successful completion of the course.

Thrift Plan

Purchases of Gulf States Utilities Company stock made by the Trustee during March, 1975, covering employee deductions and Company contributions through February, 1975, were as follows:

5,228 shares of Common stock at a cost of \$66,292.44. Average cost per share was \$12.68.

97 shares of \$4.40 preferred stock at a cost of \$5,117.88. Average cost per share was \$52.76.

The Trustee deposited \$68,056.67 with the Savings Department of the First Security National Bank.

Large User Rate Increase Granted

A rate increase of 73 large power users served by Gulf States was effected April 1.

The Company enforced the increase simultaneously in Texas and Louisiana after the Louisiana Public Service Commission, which has jurisdiction over rates applied to the 36 large power users in Louisiana, gave its approval March 24. The Company had petitioned the Commission for the increase in October, 1974, after first notifying the affected customers of its intentions.

The basis of the increase is a cost of service study performed in 1974 by Middle West Service Co., a Chicago consulting firm. The study showed the return on investment for the large power users was inadequate, according to Norman Head, rate manager.

"This should bring us up to the equivalent return for the residential and commercial customers," said Wayne Sullins, industrial development director.

Affected are customers on the LPS and LIS rate schedules, each of which demands more than 2,500 kilowatts. The rate increase is graded, however, according to the demand. Lamar University, with a demand somewhat less than 5,000 kw, will pay only \$70 more on their \$350,000 annual electric bill, while the Company's largest customer, BASF Wyandotte in Geismar, La., with a demand of 160,000 kw, will experience about an 11 per cent increase.

The Company expects to realize an additional \$10 million in revenues annually if estimates of consumption are accurate. Sullins said decreased activity at several of the plants had lowered demand, and the revenue increase will likely be less.

Still, the Gulf States industrial electric rates are considerably more favorable than in other parts of the country where more expensive fuels have been burned in electric power stations, Sullins said.

Edison Electric Institute Seeking Top Engineering Prof

The Edison Electric Institute is trying to find the outstanding power engineering educator of 1975.

Called the EEI Power Engineering Educator Award, the institute's goal is to insure that the electric power industry attracts well-qualified, highly motivated engineers at a time when all indicators show that the supply will be down and the competition for their services great.

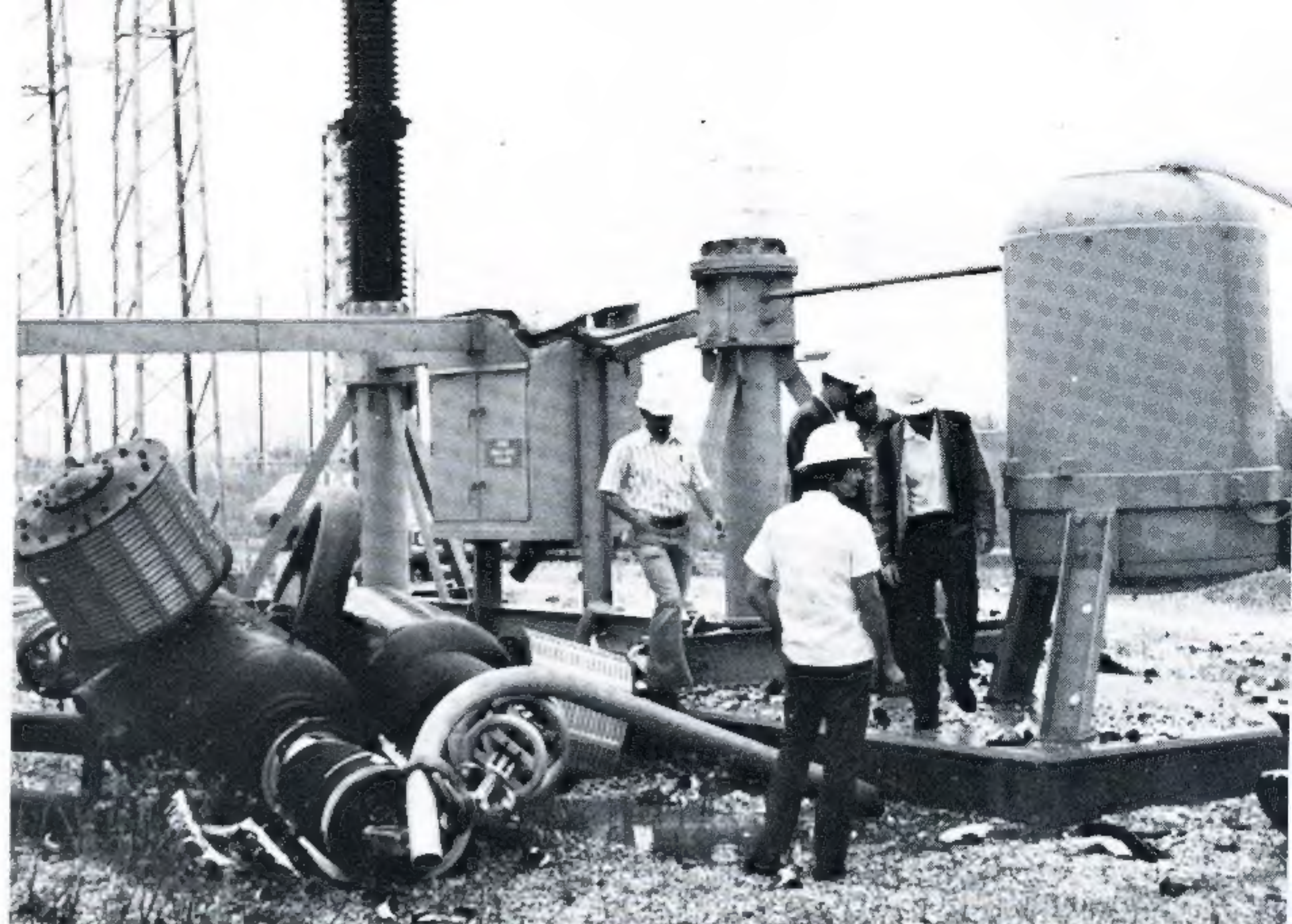
The qualifications for the award are excellence in teaching power engineering; an ability to inspire students to high levels of accomplishment in the field of power engineering; improvement of power engineering through books, technical papers, industry experience, and related research; and voluntary active participation in power-related engineering and education committees and societies.

The first award will consist of \$1,000, a plaque and certificate, expenses to the EEI Annual Convention in 1976 and \$5,000 to the engineering department at the recipient's school.

The search for the outstanding educator will begin this fall when EEI will request nominations for possible candidates from member companies, deans of engineering schools, professors of power engineering and manufacturers.

In addition, to determine the teaching influence of the nominees, a special effort will be made to seek nominations from young engineers who have been actively employed in the electric utility industry for not more than three years.

A task force will review qualifications and rank the six top candidates. A panel of judges, consisting of five prominent industry executives, will select the winner.



500 kv Breaker



BREAKER EXPLOSION — The remains of Willow Glen 500 kV breaker (top right) compared to normal installation (top left, right of picture. Damaged breaker shown on left of picture.) Debris consisted of porcelain fragments, insulators and the scorched inner fiberglass tube shown in the center and lower photos. (Photos by Bob Wolfe and James Cryer)

A 500 kv General Electric air blast breaker in the Willow Glen switchyard faulted and exploded at 8:03 a.m., April 8, resulting in the tripping off of the 580 megawatt Unit 4, and nearly forcing the same thing at Unit 2, the only other Willow Glen unit in operation at that time.

Preliminary reports indicated an electrical surge traveled down a fiberglass inner core of the middle column interrupter head of the Number Three Phase unit of the 3-phase breaker. Engineers believe moisture had invaded the air space inside the porcelain column — normally pressurized to three to 14 pounds per square inch to keep such moisture out — forming an easy path for the electricity to flow from the interrupter to ground.

Normal reaction of the breaker to a surge would have resulted in the control rod inside the fiberglass tube thrusting upwards, separating the line contacts contained in the horizontal interrupter head. An air blast from the 800-pound pressure in the central core would blow away any arc, thus isolating the line section. Because the power surge short-circuited to the ground inside the breaker, the arc could not be isolated quickly. It exploded be-

cause of the heat generated by the surge on parts not designed to carry such electrical loads.

A thunderstorm was in the general vicinity, but it is undetermined whether lightning was a factor in the breaker's failure.

The force of the explosion destroying the middle column caused the entire three column phase unit to collapse. Lights in Baton Rouge, 12 miles to the north, dimmed momentarily. No injuries were reported, and the remaining two single-phase units were not substantially damaged. The breaker was part of a ring bus network, and no customer outages resulted from the breaker failure.

Because of the peculiar location of the fault, the second and third echelon of defense protecting Willow Glen had to operate, and Unit 4 tripped out after the breaker failed. According to J. E. Cryer, Willow Glen engineer, the fact that the voltage regulator for Unit 2 was in the manual position saved that unit from also tripping off. Because Unit 4 is a supercritical steam unit, procedures to purge and restart the unit took eight to ten hours, and an additional three to four



Newlyweds, Merchants Attend Bridal Boutique

More than 300 newlyweds, prospective brides and merchants attended the sixth annual Bridal Boutique in the First National Bank lobby in Port Arthur March 2.

Sponsored by Gulf States and participating merchants, the show aims to present the total electric concept through the wise use of electrical appliances in the home and how the Company can help a young family.

Consumer information on energy use and Reddy Credit was discussed.

Prohibitive cost increases forced **Commonwealth Edison Co.**, Chicago, to abandon its plan to pioneer coal gasification in Illinois.

The utility disclosed in late February that it has halted work on a pilot gasification plant. Under the plan, four large gasification units had been scheduled for hook-up with two power generating stations in downstate Illinois. But cost estimates jumped from \$521 million a year ago to \$1.7 billion. The cost of gasification and generating facilities would average more than \$590 for each kilowatt of generating capacity, says James Fancher, director of air quality for the utility. He notes the average cost of the generating units alone is about \$180 a kilowatt.

However, the utility still believes that large-scale coal gasification "ultimately" will prove to be technically and economically feasible, if time is allowed for its orderly development.

Commonwealth's plant, thought to be the first of its kind in the nation, was to have converted high-sulfur coal into clean-burning synthetic gas.

Consumers cannot challenge utility rates in court simply on the grounds that the rates are too high, the Georgia Supreme Court has ruled. Deciding in favor of a motion by the **Georgia Power Company** to throw out complaints filed by 18 industrial customers, the Atlanta Labor Council and a consumer group, the court noted that "the consumer's remedy" against high utility rates "lies at the ballot box."

Citing a 1915 ruling of the Minnesota Supreme Court, the court ruled that it is exclusively up to the elected members of the Public Service Commission to decide if the rate structure is reasonable. (*Atlanta Constitution* Jan. 30, 1975)

Carolina Power and Light Co. has reduced the salaries of 16 senior executives by 10 per cent and the salaries of other employees by 5 per cent. The pay cuts were announced after the commission ordered a 25 percent rollback in what the state's electric companies could charge residential customers under the fuel adjustment clause. (*Charlotte Observer* Feb. 12, 1975)

Broken

hours before "we were up the ramp" at full loading.

Plans call for repairing the General Electric breaker at a cost of more than \$100,000, not including labor charges. The job will take about six months.

The Willow Glen failure was the second such casualty since the 500 kv breaker in the Nelson Station yard was struck by lightning and exploded.

The failure caused no small interest in Beaumont, Baton Rouge and at General Electric offices in Philadelphia. Stan Roby, supervisor-technical services and Bob Wolfe, engineer in the standards section; traveled to Willow Glen from Beaumont. Boyd Eisworth, assistant general substation foreman; the substation crew of Foreman F. J. Daigle; John H. Reeves, supervisor-relaying and communications; and the relay crew of Willie J. Picard traveled from Baton Rouge to the site. General Electric representatives who traveled to Willow Glen included C. M. Ratliff of Philadelphia, a design engineer from the GE power circuit breaker department; A. J. Hingle, area supervisor installation and service engineering; Frank Robinson, field engineer, New Orleans; and Russ Hawkins, sales engineer in Beaumont.

THE INDUSTRY

The **Maryland Public Service Commission** acted February 25 to limit utility companies' fuel adjustment charges. Under a commission order, Potomac Electric Power Co. (PEPCO) and other electric utilities will be prohibited, beginning in April, from including in their fuel adjustment charges to Maryland customers the cost of items other than fuel and its transportation.

PEPCO and some other utilities, including Baltimore Gas and Electric Co., have been including in their fuel charge accounts such items as ash disposal costs, fuel analysis costs and fuel purchase costs. Such items cost PEPCO \$4.71 million for the first nine months of 1974 and were responsible for about 2.5 per cent of the approximately \$196.5 million in total fuel accounts costs for that period. (*Washington Post* Feb. 26, 1975)

Georgia Power Co. has been granted a \$25 million emergency rate increase by the Georgia Public Service Commission. The PSC decided to grant the utility some \$25 million more in emergency rate relief in response to claims by Georgia Power that it teeters on the brink of insolvency.

Exempted from the rate hike are customers who use less than 350 kilowatts of power a month.

A PSC official said the hike will be applied to all of Georgia Power's retail users — residential, commercial and in-

dustrial — on the same percentage basis. The \$25 million works out to about a 12 per cent increase per customer over the next three months, he said. (*Atlanta Constitution* Feb. 7, 1975)

The **Virginia State Corporation Commission** Feb. 18 denied Appalachian Power Company's request for interim rate relief of about \$25 million.

Appalachian asked for the \$25 million by Jan. 1 when it filed its request for a \$36.2 million rate increase in December. The company wanted to begin collecting immediately through a 26.5 per cent surcharge.

The company said March 4 that it will furlough 104 Virginia operating employees in areas not yet determined, and about 100 contract right-of-way maintenance personnel will be released.

The layoffs of more than 200, blamed on the utility's failure to win rate increases, amounts to a more than 10 per cent reduction in its Virginia work force, when the earlier release of 56 contract employees is included, the company said. (*Roanoke Times*)

The **Southern Co.** said its 1975 construction budget will total \$1.1 billion, down nearly \$400 million from earlier expectations.

Its three-year budget will be \$3.4 billion, more than \$2 billion lower than anticipated earlier

Largely a One-Shot Deal

The Tax Reduction Act of 1975, signed March 29, contains some provisions that have been widely reported and discussed and others that are unfamiliar to many. Here are some of the changes that can affect you as an individual taxpayer.

Rebates

Every individual taxpayer gets a rebate on 1974 personal income taxes. There's a minimum rebate of \$100 or the amount of 1974 tax, whichever is lower; a 10% rebate of up to \$200 for those with adjusted gross incomes of up to \$20,000; and a scaled-down rebate that drops to a flat \$100 for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$30,000 or more. (Married persons filing separate returns generally divide the above rebate figures by two.) This is effective immediately and covers tax years beginning in 1974. Checks for calendar-year taxpayers should start going out by May 9.

Withholding

New tables will reflect the changes above for the year beginning Jan. 1, 1975, but will be calculated to make the total adjustment via lower withholding on wages paid after April 30, 1975, and before Jan. 1, 1976. New tables will again be required next year. Reduced withholding rates could result in underpayments for many. If this is the case, arrangements should be made with the payroll department to provide for additional withholdings.

Deductions

For those who don't itemize their deductions, the standard deduction rate is raised one per cent to 16 per cent of their adjusted gross income, with a maximum of \$2,300 for individuals and \$2,600 for those filing joint returns — up from \$2,000 for both. For married persons filing separately, the ceiling is \$1,300. This is effective only for tax years ending up to Dec. 31, 1975.

Exemptions

In addition to the regular \$750 personal exemption deduction, a new \$30 credit is allowed for 1975 for each taxpayer, spouse and dependent. If less than \$30 tax is otherwise due, the credit is the amount of the tax. For taxpayers claiming certain other credits, such as those for retirement income, foreign taxes, political contributions, etc., there is a special rule for the application of this new credit.

Retirees

The treasury will make a special one-time cash payment of \$50 to each person who, for the month of March, 1975, was entitled to receive a regular payment under the Social Security Act, Railroad Retirement Act, or the Supplementary Security Income section of the Social Security Act. These payments are tax-free and will not offset or reduce other federal or federal-supported assistance payments.

Residence Purchase

An individual taxpayer who buys a previously unoccupied residence as his principal residence gets a tax credit of 5 per cent of the purchase price, up to a maximum of \$2,000. There are conditions, however. Construction of the new residence must

have begun before March 26, 1975, and it must be acquired and occupied by the taxpayer within the period starting after March 12, 1975, and ending before 1977. If the unit isn't constructed by the taxpayer, a binding contract must be entered into before Jan. 1, 1976. For a home that's self-constructed by the taxpayer, there's a special rule: if construction began before March 13, 1975, only costs allocable to construction after that date are taken into account.

The new residence, need not be a single-family home. The credit applies to condominiums, units in cooperatives, and mobile homes as well. To protect buyers, sellers must provide certification that the purchase price is the lowest price at which the unit was ever offered for sale. A copy of this certificate must be attached to the tax return on which the credit is claimed. This section is immediately effective, and expires if a binding contract isn't signed in 1975.

Residence Replacement

The present one-year period during which the gain on the sale of an old residence can be made tax-free by investing it in a new home is extended to 18 months before or after the sale, as before. If the new residence is being constructed, the time period is extended to two years after the sale, if construction begins within 18 months. This permanent change applies on old residences sold after Dec. 31, 1974, and for tax years ending after that date.

Child-Care

The present child care deduction of up to \$400 monthly or \$4,800 a year available to you now remains, but the ceiling of \$18,000 in yearly adjusted gross income above which the deduction is phased out is raised. For 1976, the deduction will be reduced by half the amount by which adjusted gross income exceeds \$35,000. This is a permanent change.

Income Credits

Individuals who maintain a household for one or more dependent children will get a new refundable tax credit, amounting to 10% of earned income, up to the first \$4,000 of earned income. Above that, the credit is phased out at a rate of 10¢ on each additional dollar of earned income, so that there's no credit for those earning \$8,000 or more. If any of the credit exceeds taxes due, a refund will be paid in cash. "Earned income" for this purpose includes wages, salaries, tips, etc., plus self-employment net earnings. This applies only for 1975.

Low-Income

The minimum standard deduction, or low-income allowance, is increased for 1975 only to \$1,600 for individuals and to \$1,900 for joint returns (\$950 for married persons filing separately). As a result of this change, the figures for those required to file returns are raised to \$2,350 for single individuals and \$3,400 for couples filing joint returns. For Company employees, this would apply primarily to child dependents under 19 years of age or in school. The dependent would be permitted to earn \$2,350 — \$1,600 low-income allowance plus \$750 standard deduction — and still owe no tax.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



J. R. Wheeler

J. R. Wheeler, head fireman at Neches Station, has been promoted to control operations foreman.

The Leesville, La. native has been with Gulf States since 1949 when employed as an operator's helper. He was named turbine engineer in 1969 and in 1973 was promoted to head fireman.

Wheeler is married to the former Linda Butler of Port Arthur, and the couple has two sons, Mike and Steve.

L. Patrick Bourne, engineer in the system engineering planning department in Beaumont, has been transferred to Louisiana Station and promoted to general maintenance supervisor.

Bourne, a native of Little Rock, is a seven year veteran of the Company, having been employed in 1968 as an engineer. He was transferred to the transmission and distribution department in Port Arthur in 1970, and in 1972 returned to Beaumont in system engineering planning.

Bourne is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. He is chairman of the "Power Group" of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, is second vice-president of the Northwest Beaumont Lions Club, and is currently working on his master's degree at Lamar University in engineering.

Mitchell Hollier, chemist in the system production department in Beaumont, has been transferred to Baton Rouge as chemist at Willow Glen Station.



L. Patrick Bourne

Hollier, a native of Arnaudville, is a 1957 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry. He was employed in 1957 and is a two-year veteran of the Army.

Hollier is married to the former Barbara Stelly of Arnaudville, and the couple has four children.

Mark E. Walton, chemist at Willow Glen Station in Baton Rouge, has been transferred to Louisiana Station.

Walton, an employee since 1968 when employed as a chemist at Louisiana Station, was transferred in 1972 to Willow Glen. He is a 1968 graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and physics.

The Air Force veteran is a member of Alpha Chi Sigma, a professional chemistry fraternity, and is on the Board of Commissioners of the Capitol Area Groundwater Conservation District.

Herbert F. Eickenhorst, substation mechanic first class in Conroe, has been promoted to utility foreman in the T&D substation department.

A native of Navasota, Eickenhorst joined our Company as a helper in T&D substation department in Navasota in 1963. He progressed to substation mechanic first class before being transferred to Conroe.

Eickenhorst is married to the former Mary Jo McNeil of Brenham. The couple has one son, Jason, 9. They are active members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, where Herbert is an usher.



Mitchell Hollier



Mark E. Walton



Herbert F. Eickenhorst



Springtime

That phenomenon
Like human birth,
Like spiritual rebirth.

Dormant foliage coming alive again
Dogwood blooming nearby
Farther west, bluebonnets
Tardy pecan trees budding and leafing
out within a week.

All of this and more make up the
spectacle
And fill me with new appreciation
of the magic of
Springtime.

Gwen Thompson
Beaumont

Bert Rogers pointing out a turtle to daughter
Becky (left) while Carolyn and Wayne Motl enjoy
the lakeside serenity (right). Photographed by Mike
Ross at the Live Wires Club camp near Silsbee.



Live Wires' Easter Egg Expedition



Children of Live Wires Club members searched the camp near Silsbee for 30 dozen painted Easter eggs March 23. John Crowe emerged the overall winner with 18 eggs. (above and continuing clockwise). Melinda Morrison hunted through the thick brush for the eggs, Ron Audilet found the eggs good enough to eat and Maria Crowe demonstrated the preferred method of opening the shell: one smart jab to the head. Amy Cramer was too small to go out on her own, while Marty Tynes needed all the height she had to grab an egg placed in a tree. After all was said and done, Terry Kibodeaux pondered the meaning of it all.





The dogwoods around Woodville bloomed two weeks early but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the annual springtime celebration in the deep East Texas community. Several Gulf Staters planned, participated in or enjoyed the festivities. (counterclockwise from the left) District Superintendent Wyatt Bell (right) heads the Mr. East Texas Committee. This year's selection was writer Ralph Ramos, who succeeded Cong. Charles Wilson. Along the sidelines of the parade route were Thomas Wayne Goolsbee, and Terry and Sherri Waggoner, the nephew, son and daughter of Allene Cole, departmental clerk in Woodville. Sandra Rogers, executive stenographer in corporate and finance in Beaumont, gathered four generations of her family together in her hometown. Among the Shriners in the parade were Elder M. Thomas, husband of Maxine Thomas, senior clerk in material services in Beaumont; and Thomas Mitcham, substation foreman in Orange. Thomas drove a potentate while Mitcham served in the foot patrol. Lester Henderson, a lineman in Beaumont from 1937 through 1941, drove a tiny, mock antique car for the Shriners. (Ralph Ramos died April 26 following a heart attack suffered shortly after he left a celebration of the creation of the Big Thicket National Preserve.)





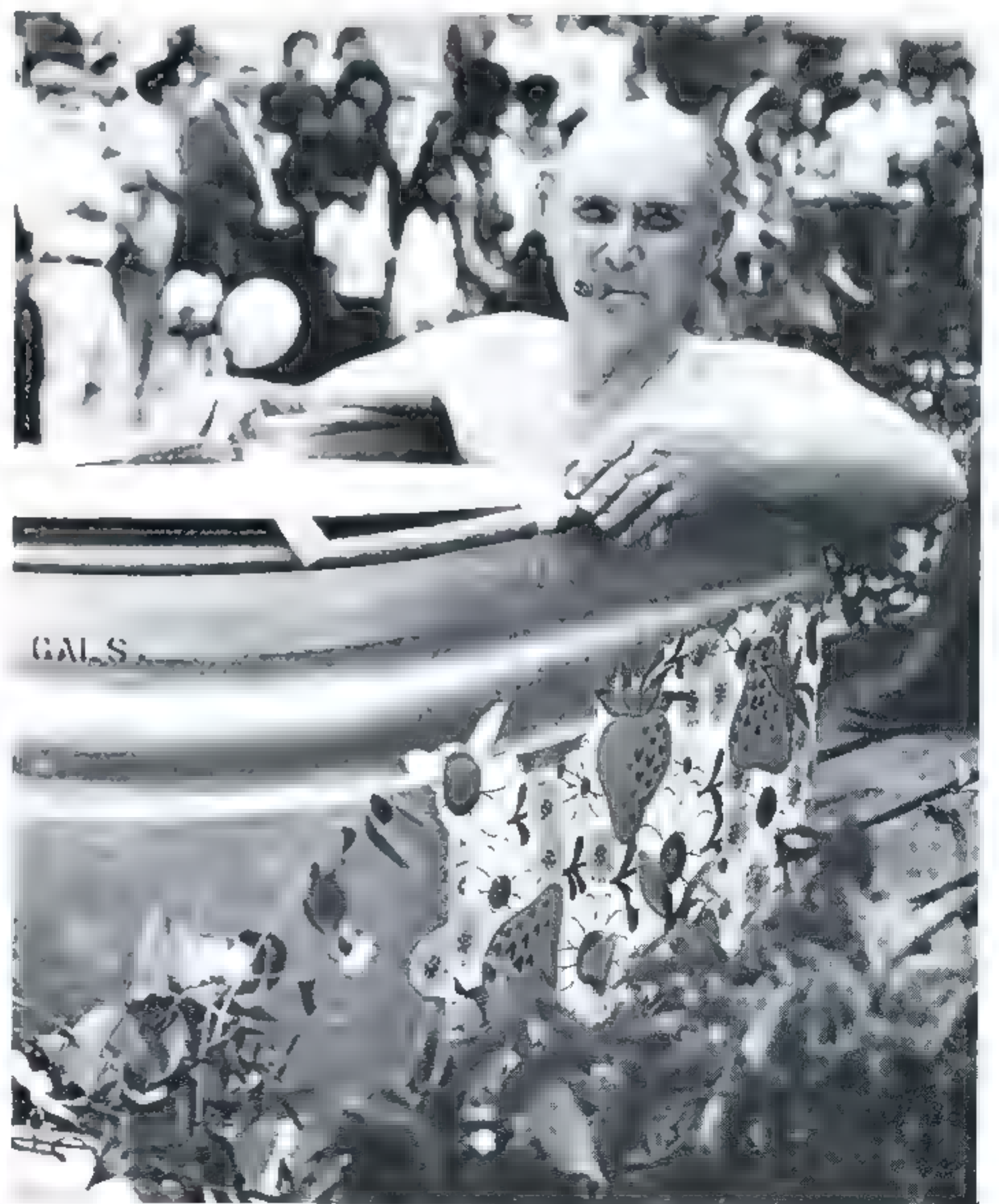
The old queen waves . . .



. . .the new queen is crowned



Picture takers . . .



. . . and picture makers



Friendly games . . .



. . . and not-so-friendly games

Scenes from the Dogwood Parade and Coronation



Pretty girls . . .



. . . and more pretty girls

SERVICE AWARDS



Lemuel A. Gravelle
Electric T&D
Jennings

**20
Years**



Sevear Young
Gas
Baton Rouge

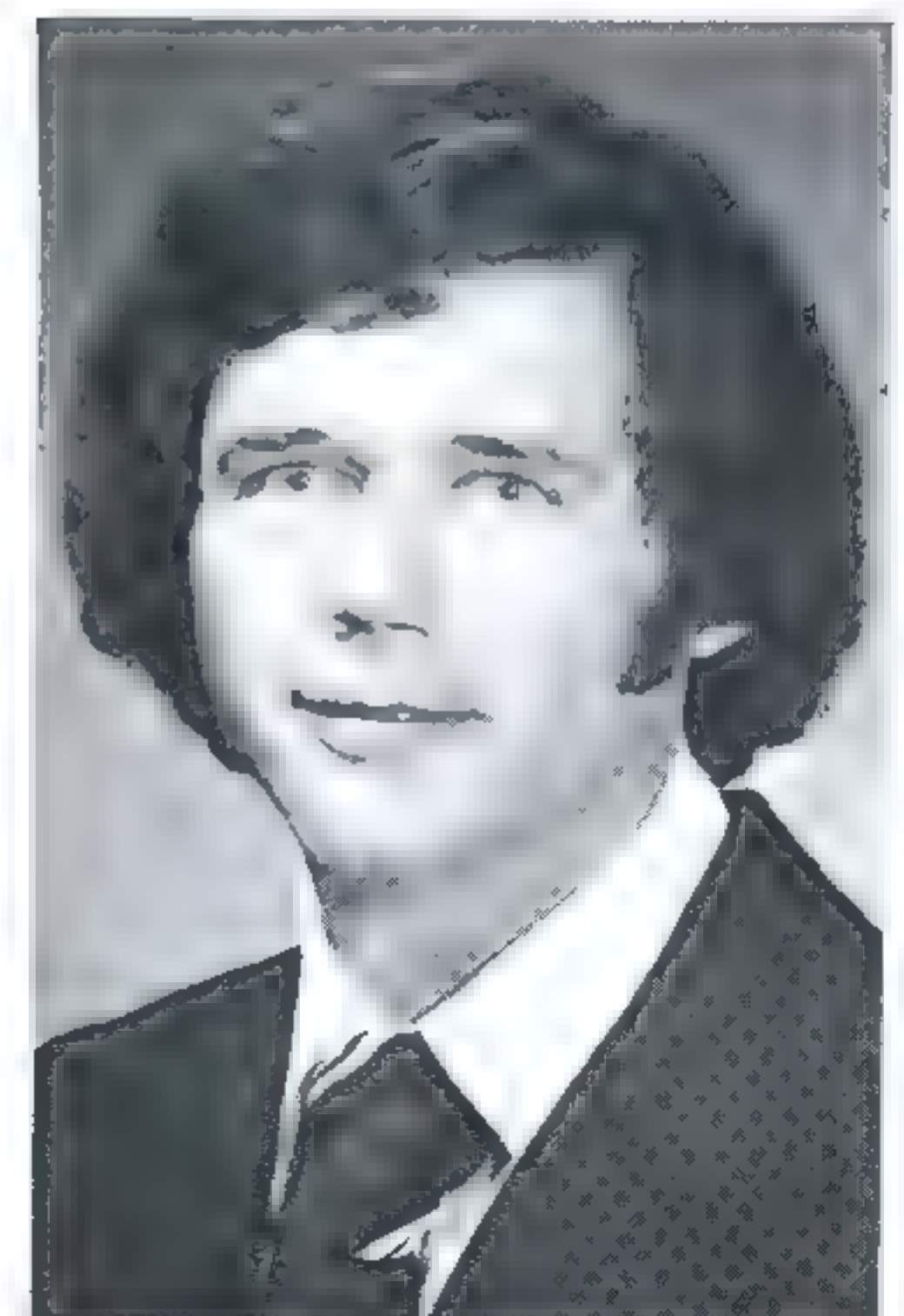


Everett B. Davis, Jr.
Electric T&D
Beaumont

**10
Years**



Patricia S. Willett
Division Marketing
Beaumont



Robert D. Havard
Electric T&D
Beaumont



History and antique fanciers visited St. Francisville, La., for the fourth annual Audubon Pilgrimage in mid-March. They saw shingles made at a crafts fair (top left and continuing clockwise), a Greek Revival well house built in the early 1800s and the stately town house, Virginia, which originated as a one-room store in 1817. The interior of Virginia is now luxuriously decorated, as witnessed by the front parlour, which contains Empire



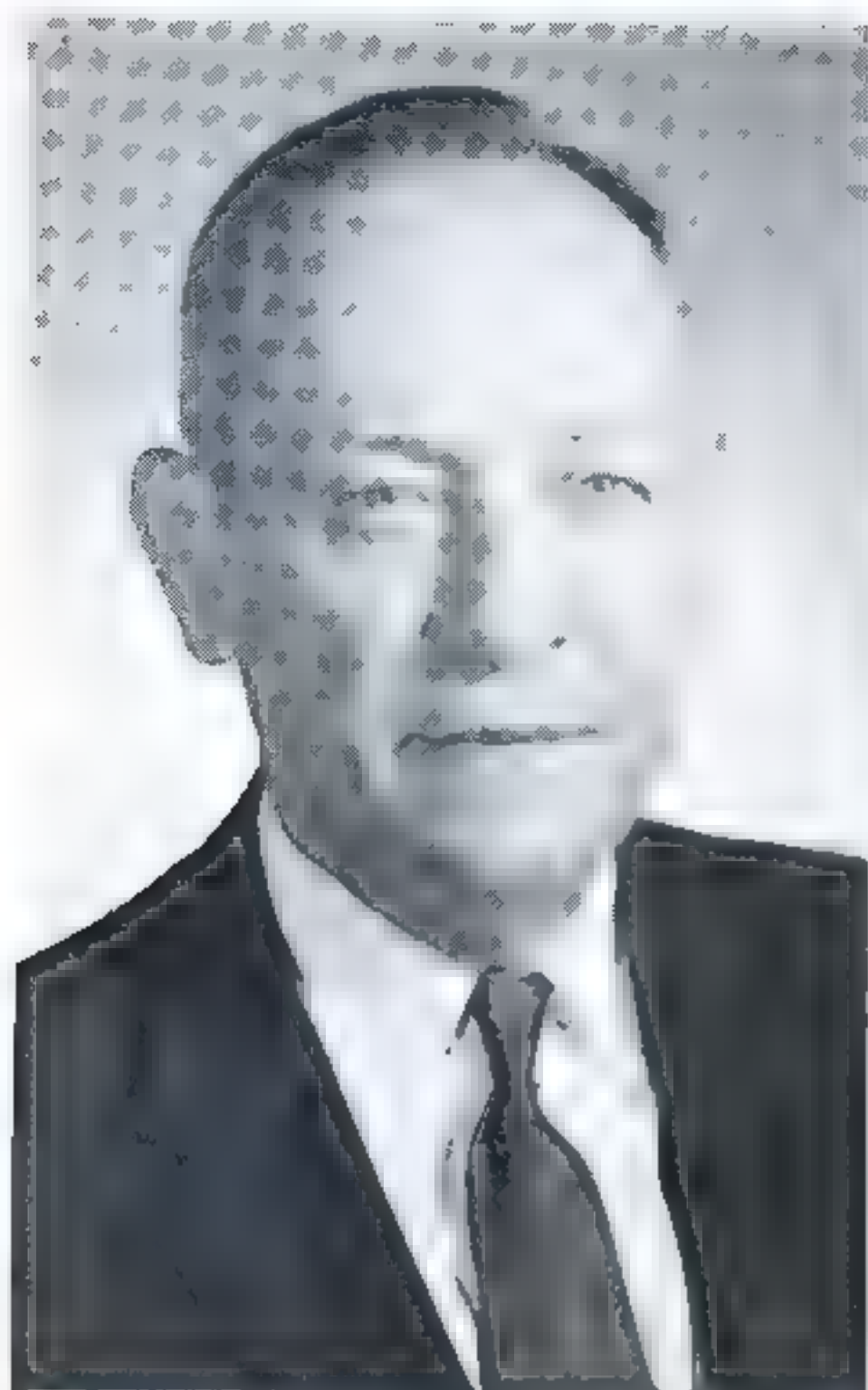
AUDUBON PILGRIMAGE



sofas, an English Sheraton table and the original window cornices. A museum open year round features miniature dioramas of typical plantation rooms. One of hundreds of outlying plantation homes in the St. Francisville area, Rosebank, shows the influence of Spanish rule. When the home was built in 1808, officials taxed only inside stairways. The architectural trick of using two sheltered outside staircases was a legitimate tax dodge.



DEATHS



William H. Gieseke Julie M. Saucier

Larry G. Revia

Junior D. Wells

William H. Gieseke, 75, retired vice president for finance and secretary of the Company, died in St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont April 15 following a stroke suffered at his home the previous evening.

A native of Brenham, Gieseke was educated at Blinn College and was graduated from Massey Business College in Houston, specializing in accounting and corporation finance.

Gieseke's career in the electric industry spanned 40 years. He was first employed by the Houston Electric Company in 1924, was later transferred to Boston, Mass., and to Savannah, Ga., before joining Engineers Public Service Co., parent company to Gulf States, in New York in 1928.

When Gulf States became an independent company in 1947, Gieseke was elected its secretary and moved to Beaumont. He was elected vice president in 1954 and served until his retirement in 1964.

Gieseke supervised the Company's long-range financial planning and short-term bank arrangements. In that capacity he was instrumental in raising about \$340 million to finance construction and expansion programs and arranging for short-term bank credits in excess of \$200 million.

In 1956, Gieseke completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University's School of Business Administration.

Active in civic affairs, Gieseke was a director of American National Bank in Beaumont and member of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, Young Men's Business League, the chamber's Govern-

mental Affairs Committee and the Fresh Water Committee.

He was a director and treasurer of the Beaumont Country Club, a past president and director of the Town Club and a member of the Beaumont Club. He was also a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Gieseke belonged to numerous professional organizations, among them the National Federation of Financial Analysts, American Institute of Management, American Society of Corporate Secretaries, American Management Association and the Edison Electric Institute Investor Relations Committee.

He is survived by his wife, Jennie Mae Gieseke of Beaumont; one son, William R. Gieseke of Silsbee; one daughter, Elaine Benning of Houston; one brother, John Gieseke of Dallas and seven grandchildren.

Julie M. Saucier, 77, retired senior customers accounts clerk in Baton Rouge, died of cancer April 16 in the Fountain Lodge Nursing Home in Baton Rouge.

A native of Montgomery, Ala., Mrs. Saucier attended grammar school in Baton Rouge and high school in New Orleans. She also attended Louisiana State University, Southwest Louisiana Industrial Institute and Baton Rouge Business College.

She joined the Company in January, 1936, as a home lighting representative. She became a clerk soon thereafter and progressed through various positions until she retired June 30, 1962.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs.

Ralph M. Goff of Zachary; one sister, Mrs. Charles DeVallon Dugas of Baton Rouge; two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Larry G. Revia, 26, division substation operator in Beaumont, drowned in Lake Anahuac, March 24, while on a crabbing expedition.

Born in Beaumont and raised in Vidor, Revia was graduated from Vidor High School and attended Tyler Junior College. He served six months active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Revia joined Gulf States in 1969 as a storeroom assistant and was promoted to division substation operator in 1972.

He is survived by his wife, Jenny Foster Revia; one son, Adam Wayne Revia; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. "Buck" Revia; and two sisters, Judy Pillow and Sheila Simmons, all of Vidor.

Junior D. Wells, 56, control operations foreman at Neches Station, died enroute to Baptist Hospital March 25 after a heart attack at his Beaumont home.

A native of Fort Jessup, La., Wells joined the Company in 1946 as an operator's helper at Neches Station. He progressed through the ranks at the power plant and was named head fireman in 1958 and control operations foreman in 1969.

Wells is survived by his wife, Annie Maddox Wells; one son, J. E. Wells of Beaumont; three sisters, Mary Johnson and Jessie Vee Boulton, both of San Antonio, and Alice Young of El Paso; one brother, T. J. Wells of Beaumont and three grandchildren.

COFFEE CUP



MATERNITY MERRY-MAKING — Jeannie Dubose, Clerk in the payroll office in Beaumont, received a gown and a pair of slippers from her coworkers on Jan. 31, her last working day before taking maternity leave for the birth of her second child. The baby was due March 1, but didn't arrive until April 8, when the Dubose's second daughter, Angela Marie, was born, weighing 9 lb., 8 oz. Pictured in the background are clerks Louetta Richmond and Linda Norton.



'HE'S' A SHE — "What kind of guy is this fellow Casey," a man asked of Earl Mayfield, Jennings storekeeper, recently. Talk about cute! That guy Casey is a gal. Casey Richert, T&D clerk in Jennings, is married, has a young daughter and has worked with the company for 9½ years. (from Earl Mayfield)



ELK RACK — Gerald Dean, building and grounds maintenance supervisor in Beaumont, finally brought his magnificent 12-point rack of elk antlers out of hiding at home prior to mounting them on his office wall. The trophy measures 37 inches tall and 35 inches wide. Dean shot the 800-pound bull wearing these antlers in October, 1970, near Hesperus in southwest Colorado. "It really makes your heart beat strong when one of these comes at you," Dean said. (from Joe DeJean)



FLORAL FAREWELL — Pluma Garrett, customer accounting clerk, received a terrarium and a bouquet of string flowers in addition to an owl candle when she left the company Jan. 17 to become a full-time homemaker. Mrs. Garrett worked 2½ years with Gulf States. "I'm going to take care of my dogs, cats, kids and house," she said. "Oh, yes! There's a husband in there somewhere, too." Her husband is an accountant with a construction firm.



AUTO-MAGIC? — Anthony Harris, car washer in Beaumont, is not the famed "Auto-Magic Car Washer" the sign indicates. The Auto-Magic frame has water nozzles around its perimeter that give the car a rinse. Harris said he uses the personal touch when the cars are extra dirty. "They take longer to clean and waste water if the machine washer is used then," Harris said.



LEADING MAN — Phil Brumfield (right), son of Fred Brumfield, security and claims representative in Beaumont, played the leading male role in the Beaumont Community Players production of "And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little." The play is a risqué comedy about a school teacher's sexual escapades with her students and her interaction with a very straightlaced man, played by Brumfield. Pictured is a rehearsal as the director instructs Brumfield and the school teacher how to move during a scene.



ADVENTURE TOUR — Groups of 30 youngsters from the Adventure Club of the West End YMCA toured the Beaumont Service Center on Feb. 19 and Feb. 21. Led by A. W. Baird (far right), operating superintendent, the group saw how a line truck operates, viewed the big crane in the substation shop, and learned what "those funny things on the power poles" are. They're transformers. The conclusion of the program was the showing of a film explaining nuclear energy for power generation. Roy Felder (center), community program director for the "Y," escorted the groups. (from Carolyn Motl)



SO LONG, SABINE — More than 50 friends of Kathleen Fuller turned out at the Wayside Inn in Bridge City, Tex., Feb. 13 for a farewell dinner prior to her transfer to the Port Arthur offices. Mrs. Fuller worked at Sabine Station 12 years — 11 as departmental clerk and one as mechanic's helper. She will serve as a clerk in Port Arthur. Mrs. Fuller was presented a gift certificate good at a dress shop in Groves. (from Darlene Faires)



FAREWELL/PROMOTION PARTY — Jim Stelly, former superintendent of sales in Port Arthur was honored by his long-time coworkers Feb. 7 prior to his departure for Orange, where he is now district superintendent. A large cake decorated with the Rainbow Bridge, which spans the Neches River between Port Arthur and Orange, was made. A Reddy Kilowatt made of icing is depicted saying, "Look, I still have economic control over you!" a noted Stelly quote. The small cake was made by Marianne Nelson, a former home service advisor. A duck made of icing on the top was crafted by Ms. Nelson's students at Nederland High School. Stelly also received a digital clock, cassette tape recorder and an AM-FM radio unit. (from Sue Williams)



Nursing School Graduate

Susan Weimer, daughter of Albert J. Weimer, meterman first class in the Baton Rouge gas department, was graduated from the Hermann Hospital School of Vocational Nursing in Houston, Jan. 31.

Ms. Weimer received the Faculty Award, which is given to the student who makes the most progress during the one-year training period. She is now working at Spring Branch Hospital in Houston. (from GERALYN WILLIAMS)



WINTER BALL BOWL — Old pictures have a way of reappearing. George Irvin's college days at Lamar Tech in Beaumont in the mid-1950s were resurrected by an unnamed associate who dropped this picture in the *Plain Talks* incoming box. Irvin, now division accounting supervisor in Baton Rouge, posed for the photographer with his date Becky Wyche at the 1955 Winter Dance. The entrance was decorated to resemble a toilet bowl with the lid up. Couples ascended hidden stairs to a platform, giving the illusion of standing in the bowl, Irvin said. Toilets must have been the rage that year, as the sign in the lower left indicates with its profound query. Irvin said the proposal to use the motif on a homecoming parade float was quashed by staid officials. Whatever became of Becky Wyche? "I don't really know," Irvin said. "I believe she married a fellow from Beaumont who was in the Navy."



LONG LOST PORTRAIT — The father of Carl Jones, market research analyst, played football for Midland (Tex.) in this uniform. Note the light padding, soft helmet and lack of shoulder protection. Jones said a grammar school friend of the elder Jones recently sent Carl the picture from Grosbeck, Tex. The friend said he had the picture, actually a postcard, more than 57 years. Jones' father died in 1963.



PRACTICAL TOUR — The fifth grade science class at Milton Elementary School in Lafayette was treated to a tour of Company facilities Feb. 26, including the pictured demonstration of the operation of a recloser by Edwin Judice, substation mechanic first class. The visit was coordinated by Toto Lacombe, residential sales representative. (from Bobbie Denais)



BROTHERS' BUCK — Kenneth Hite (right) turbine engineer at Louisiana Station, and his brother Charles killed this 7-point buck Dec. 22 near Clinton, La. (from Marilyn Nicholson)



GOING HOME — Nancy Eberhardt (lower right), a clerk in the Beaumont T&D engineering department for five years, bid farewell Jan. 17 to become a full-time housewife. On her final day she was feted with a lunch at a Mexican restaurant and was presented with a ceramic flower pot to paint and fill with greenery. Pictured at the farewell party are (clockwise from lower left) Carolyn Motl, Rose Ann Johnson, Pam Brown — Nancy's replacement — Linda McSwain and Susan Tucker. (from Carolyn Motl)



BIG PLANT, BIG SMILE — Neva Risener, service application clerk in Orange, has this giant Coleus plant in the windowless interior office she shares with several other ladies. Her blissful smile might be because she was due to get married March 1 and move to Farmington, N. Mex. Before her departure, the plant was divided into cuttings which now grow in at least two states — Texas & New Mexico.



OUTSTANDING PASTOR — Rev. Paul Brooks, pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church of Vicksburg, Miss., and son of T. D. Brooks, senior engineering assistant in Jennings, La., appeared in the 1974 edition of Outstanding Young Men of America. The publication recognizes annually men between the ages of 21 and 35 who have distinguished themselves by their civic and professional achievements. (from Earl Mayfield)



WHITE COON — Joe Gorney, division substation operator in Conroe, bagged a rare albino raccoon in a late December hunt near Grapeland. "When I first saw it up in a tree I thought it was a white bird's nest and kept walking," Gorney said. "But I told myself I didn't know any birds that had white nests and went back for another look. That's when I realized it was a white coon, and I shot it." Gorney had the catch mounted as pictured, but expressed regret the taxidermist didn't pose the animal in a more natural position. (from Bobbie Burke)



"Why does it always rain on the weekends?"

RECIPES

Poisson, Poisson, Poisson

Bobbie Denais
Lafayette

The fishing season is approaching and we who love to wet a line are readying our boats, supplying our tackle boxes with the "sure thing" lures and checking our gear in preparation for this exciting sport.

Fish is delectable regardless of how it is prepared — there are so many ways — and it is nutritional and economical as well. And easy to prepare? Mais oui, che.

Below are some of the favorite fish recipes of this bayou bait bobbie. Courtboullion (COO-bee-yon) is a classic tomato-fish stew served over steaming rice. Fried, baked and barbecued fish are appropriate for this inevitable feast following a successful fishing trip. Any leftovers — heaven forbid — can be ground up for use in the fish patties.

So, why not make fish a must on your dinner table at least once a week? It'll be on min.

I guar-on-tee!

Fish Courtboullion

4 to 5 lbs. fish, cut in pieces
½ cup cooking oil
½ cup all purpose flour
2 quarts water
One 10 oz. can Rotel tomatoes
One 6 oz. can tomato paste
2 large onions, chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
½ cup chopped green pepper
½ cup chopped celery
1 cup mixed onion tops & parsley
Salt & pepper to season

In a small skillet, make a roux by combining the oil and flour. Cook this over medium heat, stirring constantly until light brown. Set aside.

In a large heavy pot, put in 1 quart of the water, Rotel tomatoes, tomato paste, onions, garlic, pepper, celery and roux. Cover and simmer for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking. Add remaining quart of water, fish, onion tops, parsley and seasoning to taste.

Continue cooking on low heat for about 20 minutes or until fish is done. If you must stir, do so carefully to avoid breaking the fish.

Dee-licious served over rice. Makes about 8 generous servings.



Cajun Fried Fish

5 to 6 lbs. of frying fish
2 tsps. salt
One 6 oz. jar prepared mustard
One 3 oz. bottle Louisiana Hot Sauce
1 cup yellow corn meal
½ cup all purpose flour

Season fish with salt. Combine the mustard and hot sauce in bowl and blend well. In a thick paper bag, put in corn meal and flour.

Coat the fish well with the mustard and hot sauce mixture and shake in bag until well floured. Fry in deep fat until golden brown.

Serve with hush puppies and a green salad. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Baked Fish

4 or 5 lbs. bass, catfish or any baking fish
1 large onion, chopped
½ cup chopped green pepper
¼ cup chopped celery
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1½ Tbsps. shortening
One 8 oz. can tomato sauce
½ cup catsup
1½ cups water
½ cup mixed green onions & parsley
1 tsp. lemon juice
Salt and pepper to taste

In an uncovered 2 quart saucepan, saute the onions, pepper, celery and garlic in the shortening until wilted. Add tomato sauce catsup, water, green onions, parsley and lemon juice. Cook slowly for about ½ hour.

Prepare fish while sauce is cooking. Season with salt and pepper. Place in baking pan with just enough oil to keep from sticking. Pour sauce over fish and bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. Baste occasionally while baking.

Makes 5 to 6 servings.

Barbecued Bass

One 4 to 5 lb. bass
2 Tbsps. salad oil
2 Tbsps. vinegar
½ cup catsup
¼ cup water
½ cup chopped onion
1 clove garlic, chopped fine
2 tsps. Worcestershire Sauce
Dash of Tabasco Sauce (according to taste)
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. black pepper
¼ tsp. dry mustard
1½ tsps. chili powder
One 6 oz. can B & B mushrooms (broiled in butter)

Place fish on double sheet of heavy aluminum foil; bring foil up around fish. Combine remaining ingredients; heat.

When coals have formed white ashes, pour heated sauce over fish. Fold foil tightly. Place on grill about 4 inches above coals. Cook for 30 minutes or until fish flakes easily.

Cajun Catfish Patties

3 cups potatoes, sliced ¼ inch thick
2 lbs. fresh catfish fillets, ground
2 Tbsps. butter or margarine
1 egg, slightly beaten
¼ cup milk
Salt and pepper to taste
Flour
6 Tbsps. cooking oil

Cook potatoes in small amount of water until done. Drain and mash. Mix with ground catfish. Add butter, egg, milk and seasonings. Mix well and form into patties. Pat a little flour on each side of patty. Fry in cooking oil about 10 minutes. Serves about 4.

WELCOME ABOARD

Bulk Rate
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Beaumont, Texas
Permit No. 11

SYSTEM DEPARTMENT

Information & Data Services

Watson, Rebecca L., Bmt., Dept Clerk - IDS/Records
Johnston, Virginia A., Bmt., Stenographer - IDS/Records
Kennon, Melissa S., Bmt., Dept Clerk - IDS/Records-Dupl

System Engineering

Simmons, Emma C., Bmt., Dept Clerk - Sys Eng Des/Std-Equip
Garrett, Stella F., Bmt., Dept Clerk - Sys Eng Des/DEC-Drftg
Kendall, Philip G., Bmt., Engr Helper - Sys Eng Des/DEC-Drftg

Accounting Services

Larkin, Bessie H., Bmt., Clerk - Acctg Servs/Payroll

System Treasury

Vezina, Joe C., Bmt., Clerk - Sys Treas/Actg-General

BEAUMONT DIVISION

Distribution

Marks, Peter, Jr., Bmt., Laborer I - T&D/Garage
Wallace, Robert M., Orange, Helper - T&D Dept/Line
Hayes, Essie S., Orange, Dept Clerk - T&D/Engr

Division Accounting

Trahan, Howard J., Jr., Bmt., Meter Reader
Padilla, Frank J., Bmt., Meter Reader
McDonald, Audrey B., Orange, Clerk - Cust Accts

Production

Morgan, David E., Bmt., Laborer I - Neches Sta
Landry, George, Jr., Bmt., Laborer I - Neches Sta

Treasury

Radley, Carol E., Bmt., Laborer I - Div Acctg/Stores
Adams, John C., Jr., Bmt., Laborer I - Div Acctg/Stores
Weir, Jack B., Orange, Meter Reader
Kay, Shirley F., Vidor, Meter Reader

PORT ARTHUR DIVISION

Production

Broussard, Joyce L., Br City, Dept Clerk - Sabine Sta

Division Accounting

Miller, Randolph L., Pt Arth, Laborer I - Div Acctg/Stores

Distribution

Snowden, Brinda B., Pt Arth, Laborer I - T&D/Line

WESTERN DIVISION

Production

Richardson, Jimmie H., Conroe, MEchanic

Production

Richardson, Jimmie H., Conroe, Mechanic Helper (Elec) Lewis Cr Sta
Castellanos, Cathy C., Conroe, Equipment Oper - Lewis Cr Sta
Thomas, Richard E., Conroe, Mechanic Helper (Elec) Lewis Cr Sta
Catchings, Rickie L., Conroe, Mechanic Helper (Test) Lewis Cr Sta

Distribution

Abner, Gregory G., Conroe, Laborer I - T&D/Line
Hare, David L., Conroe, Laborer I - T&D/Line
Stakes, Marylyn G., Conroe, Laborer I - T&D/Line

Treasury

Harts, Doris T., Conroe, PBX Operator - Div Treas/Overall
Kelley, George E., Huntsv., Meter Reader
Flores, Joan A., N Caney, Local Office Clerk

BATON ROUGE DIVISION

Production

Leachman, Brian K., B Rouge, Laborer I - La Sta

Gas Department

Peck, Laurene E., B Rouge, Laborer I - Gas Dept

Distribution

Aubin, Donald D., D Sprgs, Helper - T&D/Line
Fountain, Michael O., B Rouge, Laborer I - T&D/Line
Vernon, Rhonda L., B Rouge, Stenographer - T&D/Overall

Treasury

Gill, Sandra R., B Rouge, Clerk - Cust Rela
Chapman, Jean J., B Rouge, Clerk - Cust Rela

LAKE CHARLES DIVISION

Distribution

Fruge, Catherine K., L Chas, Dept Clerk - T&D/Engr
Lavergne, Marjorie M., Lafay, Dept Clerk - T&D/Engr
Corkran, Burl A., L Chas, Laborer I - T&D/Line

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

PLAIN TALKS

P. O. BOX 2951
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED